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Annotated bibliography

EDC 102

The research question that will be analyzed in this project is how are socioeconomic status/funding associated with nutrition and food in schools? For families in low income areas where families are living day to day, it is hard for individuals to provide nutritious foods for their children. There are government programs in Rhode Island that address this issue as well as school ran programs that provide students lunch for little to no cost as well as breakfast. These articles will explain why the two factors are correlated.

Confessore, Nicholas. (2014, October). How School Lunch Became a Battleground.

New York Times.

This first article by the New York Times could be best summarized as explaining in a general sense subsidized lunches and breakfasts in America. The article interviews the leaders of the Federal School Lunch Program and also discussed the Obama Administrations, “Let’s Move”, campaign. In this article quality of food came down to funding. Healthier more expensive items usually are replaced by cheaper higher calorie meals.

My reaction to this article is that I agree with concepts and trends discussed. Everyone wants lower taxes and better public services however the two are not positively associated. When Reagan made cuts to the subsidized lunch programs, quality of food went down and it spiraled into what school lunches are like today. My stance on this article is that I feel that every child deserves not be hungry when they are in school and if their families are having trouble financially the state/federal government should assist.

Strauss , Valerie. (2010, May). Public Education’s Biggest Problem Gets Worse.

The Washington Post

The second article found in the Washington Post describes the poverty level in America and gives details about how poverty and home life can affect a student’s performance even more than a teacher. Although this article doesn’t mention much specifically about foods in school lunches, it does state that the poverty level set in America does not do justice for people living above the poverty line, in fact, people living well above the poverty line still face troubles when providing food and other resources for their kids.

My reaction to this article is that I agree that when kids grow up in impoverished areas it does affect their performance. Since in the past decade the number of families falling below the poverty line is increasing, and this is a growing concern for school/lunch program reform. I think that after reading this article the government needs to pay more attention to poverty in schools and how at home life is affecting students. I also think that too much blame is being put on teachers rather than the state for not providing the necessary conditions for students.

State of Rhode Island. (2015) SNAP, Food Access Project.

Department of Human Services

This next article that will be discussed explains in detail what the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is and how it could be used to assist families and students in Rhode Island. The article explains that the program is a federal program that provides nutritional assistance to low-income households. Benefits supplement the food budgets of families and individuals so they may purchase more and higher quality foods using the EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card.

I felt it was important to include an article about SNAP because it is directly correlated with nutrition and families. While other programs give assistance and funding to schools to benefit nutrition SNAP provides education and resources that help families prepare for financial stability. SNAP is not only a government funded food program but it is also a system that attempts to train families in healthy eating that future generations will have the knowledge to make good choices.

Centers for Disease Control. (2012). Child obesity facts. http://www.cdc.gov/

healthyyouth/obesity/facts.htm.

The next article that will be discussed is about the need for healthier and better foods in schools because of health problems in students. The article explains that the number of children between the ages of 6 and 11 who were considered obese increased from 7% in 1980 to 20% in 2008, and one-third of those children in 2008 were overweight or obese due to caloric imbalance. The article attributes this rise to poor diet and unhealthy options at schools.

This article is important in answering my question because it shows how poor food choices due to poverty and other factors can affect the health of students. Once again in this article though, funding seems to be an issue that needs to be addressed. I found it interesting that the article proposed incorporating community garden strategies with classes.

Beers, Kylene. (June 2011). The Genteel Unteaching of America’s Poor.

National Council of Teachers of English

The last article that will be discussed is best summarized as explaining the culture of impoverished schools and how in some cases little effort is done to ensure that they are getting the educational experience they deserve. The article states that it’s a combination of lack of funding and blissful unawareness of how bad some schools are that attribute to poor nutrition in schools.

My reaction to this article is that I believe that it’s true that some schools are neglected and forgotten about when it comes to funding and government assistance. When this happens I believe it creates a spiral downward affect that leads to worsening conditions and nutrition in schools and families.